

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial polymeric coating composition, in particular an antimicrobial coating material, comprising inorganic core-shell particles having a core and at least one shell directly deposited thereon, wherein

the core comprises nanoscale particles ~~of an inorganic material with semiconductor properties~~ selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, titanium oxide, iron oxide, cerium oxide, indium-tin oxide, silicon carbide, tungsten carbide and silicon nitride, having a particle size <100 nm, and

the shell is formed by at least one metal having an antimicrobial action.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic material is titanium dioxide (TiO₂).

6. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the metal is silver or copper.

7. (Currently Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the nanoscale particles which form the core possess a particle size of between 5 nm and 50 nm, ~~preferably between 5 nm and 20 nm.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles possess a particle size of between 5 nm and 100 nm, ~~preferably between 10 nm and 50 nm, in particular between 20 nm and 45 nm.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coat thickness of the shell is between 0.1 nm and 20 nm, ~~preferably between 1 nm and 10 nm.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that it is a water-miscible coating composition.

11. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that it is a coating composition based on acrylic resins or based on polyurethane.

12. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that it is a coating composition based on a powder coating material.

13. (Currently Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles are present

in the composition in amounts of between 0.1% and 15% by weight, ~~preferably in amounts of between 0.25% and 10% by weight and with particular preference in amounts between 2% and 4% by weight.~~

14. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that it is present as a coat on a substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial polymeric coating ~~composition of claim 1,~~ comprising an antimicrobial coating material, comprising inorganic core-shell particles having a core and at least one shell directly deposited thereon, characterized in that the core-shell particles are produced using nanoscale particles of an inorganic material having a particle size <100 nm as a core and at least one metal having antimicrobial action is applied as a shell to at least one particle in solution or in suspension in a UV radiation induced redux reaction, ~~having a core of nanoseale particles of an inorganic material having a particle size <100 nm and a shell of at least one substance having anantimicrobial action~~ and are mixed, preferably or homogenized, with an organic polymer material.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 15 ~~16~~, characterized in that the metal is copper or silver.

19. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 15 ~~16~~,

characterized in that following application of the shell the solvent is removed to obtain a powder and ~~preferably the powder thus obtained is calcined.~~

20. (Currently Amended) An article characterized in that it is coated at least partly, ~~preferably~~ or completely, with the coating composition of claim 1.

21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the nanoscale particles which form the core possess a particle size of between 5 nm and 20 nm.

28. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles possess a particle size of between 10 nm and 50 nm.

29. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles possess a particle size of between 20 nm and 45 nm.

30. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coat thickness of the shell is between 1 nm and 10 nm.

31. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles are present in the composition in amounts of between 0.25% and 10% by weight.

32. (New) The coating composition of claim 1, characterized in that the coreshell particles are present in the composition in amounts of 2% and 4% by weight.

33. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein the powder obtained by the removal of the solvent is calcined.